

## CLAIMS

Accordingly, what is claimed is:

1. A power management system for a computer system having a plurality of power supplies, the system comprising:
  - a plurality of first circuits, each of the first circuits responsive to an electrical condition of each of the plurality of power supplies;
  - a second circuit, responsive and coupled to the plurality of first circuits, that identifies a state associated with any one of the plurality of power supplies;
  - a third circuit, responsive and coupled to the second circuit, that communicates the state of the one of the plurality of power supplies to a user.
2. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of first circuits comprises a coupling cable.
3. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of first circuits is a coupling cable having a plurality lines, said plurality of lines conveying a signal associated with a state of a particular one of said plurality of power supplies.
4. The power management system of claim 3 wherein one of said lines conveys identification information.
5. The power management system of claim 3 wherein said coupling cable conveys the information in parallel.

6. The power management system of claim 3 wherein said coupling cable conveys the information in a serial fashion.
7. The power management system of claim 3 wherein said coupling cable is an RJ-45 cable.
8. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said first circuits comprise lines carrying information associated with a state of said plurality of power supplies and lines carrying information on identification of said plurality of power supplies.
9. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said third circuit initiates an electronic message to be sent to an operator.
10. The power management system of claim 9 wherein said third circuit writes an entry into a log.
11. The power management system of claim 9 wherein said third circuit initiates a visual signal.
12. The power management system of claim 9 wherein said third circuit initiates an email to the operator.
13. The power management system of claim 9 wherein said third circuit conveys information regarding the location of a specific one of said plurality of power supplies.

14. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said third circuit communicates upon an occurrence of an event associated with one of said plurality of power supplies.

15. The power management system of claim 14 wherein said event is one of the plurality of power supplies failing to meet a predetermined threshold.

16. The power management system of claim 14 wherein said event is one of the plurality of power supplies failing to meet a threshold being some defined amount away from a threshold.

17. The power management system of claim 14 wherein said event is a failure of one of said plurality of power supplies.

18. The power management system of claim 14 wherein said event is dependent based on the type of event.

19. The power management system of claim 1 wherein said first plurality of circuits conveys information regarding associated with a grouping of said plurality of power supplies.

20. The power management system of claim 19 wherein said third circuit conveys information regarding the location of a specific one of said grouping of power supplies.

21. The power management system of claim 19 wherein said third circuit conveys information regarding the grouping said plurality of power supplies.
22. The power management system of claim 19 wherein said third circuit communicates upon the occurrence of an event associated with a group of said plurality of power supplies.
23. A power management system for a computer system, the system comprising:
- a plurality of means for powering the computer system;
  - a means for transmitting a plurality of signals indicative of an electrical condition of each of the means for powering;
  - a means for monitoring the electrical condition of each of the plurality of means for powering, said means for monitoring coupled to the means for transmitting;
  - a means for communicating the state of the one of the plurality of means for powering to a user, coupled to said means for monitoring.
24. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for transmitting comprises a coupling cable.
25. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for transmitting is a coupling cable having a plurality lines, said plurality of lines conveying a signal associated with a state of a particular one of said means for powering.
26. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for transmitting conveys identification information for the means for powering.

27. The power management system of claim 26 wherein said means for transmitting conveys said plurality of signals in parallel.

28. The power management system of claim 26 wherein said means for transmitting conveys plurality of signals in a serial fashion.

29. The power management system of claim 26 wherein said means for transmitting is an RJ-45 cable.

30. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for transmitting comprises:

lines carrying information associated with a state of each said plurality of means for powering; and

lines carrying identification information of said plurality of means for powering.

31. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating initiates an electronic message to be sent to an operator.

32. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating writes an entry into a log.

33. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating initiates a visual signal.

34. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating initiates an email to the operator.
35. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating conveys information regarding the location of a specific one of said plurality of means for powering.
36. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for communicating communicates upon an occurrence of an event associated with one of said plurality of means for powering.
37. The power management system of claim 36 wherein said event is one of the plurality of means for powering failing to meet a predetermined threshold.
38. The power management system of claim 36 wherein said event is one of the said plurality of means for powering failing to be some defined amount away from a threshold.
39. The power management system of claim 36 wherein said event is a failure of one of said plurality of means for powering.
40. The power management system of claim 36 wherein said means for communicating produces a communication dependent on the type of event.

41. The power management system of claim 23 wherein said means for transmitting conveys information associated with a grouping of said plurality of means for powering.

42. The power management system of claim 41 wherein said means for communicating conveys information regarding the location of a specific one of said grouping of means for powering.

43. The power management system of claim 41 wherein said means for communicating conveys information regarding the grouping said plurality of means for powering.

44. The power management system of claim 41 wherein said means for communicating communicates upon the occurrence of an event associated with a group of said plurality of means for powering.

45. A method of managing power for a computer system, the method comprising:  
powering the computer system with a plurality of power supplies;  
transmitting a plurality of signals indicative of an electrical condition of each of the power supplies;  
monitoring the electrical condition of each of the plurality of power supplies;  
communicating the state of the one of the plurality of power supplies to a user.

46. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting is performed with a coupling cable.

47. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting performed is a coupling cable having a plurality lines, said plurality of lines conveying a signal associated with a state of a particular one of said plurality of power supplies.

48. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting comprises: conveying identification information associated with said plurality of power supplies.

49. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting comprises: conveying said plurality of signals in parallel.

50. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting comprises: conveying said plurality of signals in a serial fashion.

51. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting is performed with an RJ-45 cable.

52. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting comprises: conveying information associated with a state of each of said plurality of power supplies; and  
conveying identification information of each of said plurality of power supplies.

53. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said communicating comprises:



sending an electronic message to the operator.

54. The power management system of claim 45 wherein communicating comprises:

writing an entry into a log.

55. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said communicating comprises:

initiating a visual signal.

56. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said communicating comprises:

sending an email to the operator.

57. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said communicating comprises:

conveying information regarding the location of a specific one of said plurality of power supplies.

58. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said communicating comprises:

communicating upon an occurrence of an event associated with one of said plurality of power supplies.

59. The power management system of claim 58 wherein said event is one of the plurality of power supplies failing to meet a predetermined threshold.

60. The power management system of claim 58 wherein said event is one of the said plurality of power supplies failing to be some defined amount away from a threshold.

61. The power management system of claim 58 wherein said event is a failure of one of said plurality of power supplies.

62. The power management system of claim 58 wherein said communicating is dependent based on the type of event.

63. The power management system of claim 45 wherein said transmitting comprises:  
conveying information associated with a grouping of said plurality of power supplies.

64. The power management system of claim 63 wherein said communicating comprises:  
conveying information regarding the location of a specific one of said grouping of power supplies.

65. The power management system of claim 63 wherein said communicating comprises:  
conveying information regarding the grouping said plurality of power supplies.

66. The power management system of claim 63 wherein said communicating comprises:

communicating upon the occurrence of an event associated with a group of said plurality of power supplies.

67. A method of monitoring the power to a computer system, said power supplied by a plurality of power supplies, said method comprising:

generating a state signal indicative of a state of said plurality of power supplies;

generating an identifying signal identifying each of said plurality of power supplies;

monitoring said state signal;

notifying an operator of the computer system, based on an event associated with said state signal.